299

Biographical Sketch

of

The Reverend Ernest C. Earp

Prepared by the Vestry

for the information of the members of the Congregation and those interested in the

Church of the Redeemer

Lower Merion

Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

REV. ERNEST C. EARP

THE Reverend Ernest C. Earp, who comes to the Church of The Redeemer as rector in September, preaching his first sermon as the successor to the Reverend George Calvert Carter on September eighth, was born in Leeds, England, in the year 1882.

Some twenty-five years ago he went to Canada where he entered Wycliffe College, Toronto University. In Advent, 1906, he was ordained a priest at St. Alban's Cathedral, and was appointed Curate to the Reverend the Honorable Canon Cody, Rector of St. Paul's Church, Toronto, the outstanding figure in the Anglican Church of the Dominion. Three years later he became rector of the church at Dunnville, in the Diocese of Niagara, going from there to Grace Church, Regina, Diocese of Qu'Appelle, in the Province of Saskatchewan.

At the outbreak of the Great War in 1914, he resigned his rectorship, and

receiving a commission as captain and chaplain proceeded over seas with the 68th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Forces. Three months later he left England and went into the line with the 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade. He saw active service on the western front, between Ypres and the river Somme, and was present at the famous attack upon Vimy Ridge, in April, 1917, when the Canadian troops captured the German positions which had for so long resisted the attacks of General Foch's Army.

He was subsequently invalided to England, and upon regaining his health was attached to the 51st Forestry Corps in Scotland. At one time he was adjutant to Colonel Wells, senior chaplain to the 2nd Canadian Division. The official records show that he discharged his duties with the highest degree of faithfulness and devotion, and the Director of Chaplain Services was moved to say that from long observation of Captain Earp, he was confident he might be depended upon to give an equally good account of himself wherever he might be placed in the service of the Church.

After the armistice he remained in England, accepting the position of Deputation Secretary of the Colonial and Continental Church Society. He travelled widely, and preached in a great number of churches. Subsequently, he was made precentor of Holy Trinity Church at Hull, England, said to be the largest parish church in England. In addition to his parochial work there, Mr. Earp was appointed an Honorary Lecturer to the League of Nations' Union, and in 1920 was elected to represent the Hull Branch of the Union at a Conference in Geneva.

In 1921 he was appointed vicar of St. Barnabas, in the ancient City of York. Simultaneous with this came an invitation from the parishioners of St. Thomas' Church, St. John's, Newfoundland, to succeed the Reverend Dr. Edgar Jones, who became Dean of St. Paul's, Cincinnati.

Upon the advice of the Archbishop of York and the Bishop of Hull, he decided to leave England to accept the call in St. John's. While there he was appointed by the Bishop of Newfoundland to the

Stall in the Cathedral left vacant through the resignation of Canon Hewitt. He thus became a member of the Cathedral Chapter, and was henceforth known as the Reverend Canon Earp, a title he took with him when, two and a half years later, he left St. John's, going west to the Cathedral at Saskatoon, going from there a few years later to Bermuda, where until the present time he has managed the affairs of two parishes and two missions, with churches some distance apart, to be reached by horse and carriage.

Those who knew him in St. John's say that he is a preacher of the first rank, eloquent in delivery, rich in imagery, choice in diction, impressive and appealing; an administrator of marked ability, sympathetic and ready to serve. During his ministry at the Cathedral, Saskatoon, Canon Earp took an active interest in civic, academic and military affairs. He was chaplain to the Provincial Great War Veterans' Association, chaplain to the 17th Brigade, Canadian Artillery, and also chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Free Masons in the Province of Saskatchewan. He is a graduate in Arts and an honor graduate in Divinity, receiving the

same degree from Toronto University, Licentiate in Theology, as that received by Dr. Francis L. Patton, former President of Princeton University, and Bishop Acheson of Connecticut. He was Lecturer in Homiletics at Queen's College, Newfoundland, and at Emmanuel College, University of Saskatchewan.

In Bermuda he is vice-president of the English Speaking Union, and has given lectures under the auspices of the Union, the Board of Trade, the Rotary Club and the Citizens' League. The Bishop of Bermuda writes, in reference to the Canon's resignation, "The loss to Bermuda will be irreparable."

Dr. Endicott Peabody, the principal of Groton School, who met him in Bermuda, has recently written:

> "His preaching is so interesting and so helpful that people, especially Americans, come to hear him from all over the Island. He is a man of unusual personality, friendly, attractive, sympathetic, human; possessing indeed, the qualifications that one desires most in a parish priest. His sermons and his views indicate a deep spirituality."

Dr. Francis L. Patton, the president of Princeton University from 1888 to 1902, a Bermudian by birth and now living in retirement there, has written the Vestry commending Canon Earp to the confidence and affection of the people of Bryn Mawr. He says:

"To the manner and culture of a gentleman and a scholar, he adds the unusual gift of speech which is equally effective on the platform and in the pulpit. 'Though [not] lacking the accomplishment of verse,' Canon Earp has an easy command of elegant English prose. Wide in his reading and versatile in his tastes, he can move with grace and dignity through the entire gamut of the emotions, 'from grave to gay, from lively to severe,' and can also fearlessly face the current questions in philosophy without thinking that there is any necessary rivalry between the intellect and the feelings.

"It is the rare combination of these qualities in him which makes me confident that you could not have made a wiser choice in the selection of a Rector."

Canon Earp will be accompanied to Bryn Mawr by his wife, his son, who is a

student at McGill University, Montreal, and his daughter, who has recently been attending school in England.

His acceptance of the call to the Church of The Redeemer was indeed characteristic. His cable simply read: "Accept stop Romans Fifteen, Verse Twenty-nine."

> "And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the Gospel of Christ."

Bryn Mawr, Pa.
July 10, 1929